

# Terms, People, and Places

Surplus:

Traditional Economy:

Civilization:

Polytheistic:

Artisan:

Pictograph:

Scribe:

Cultural Diffusion:

City-state:

Empire:

# Lesson Objectives:

- Analyze the conditions under which the first cities and civilizations arose.
- Outline the basic features that define a civilization.
- Understand the ways in which civilizations have changed over time.

## CHAPTER

## 1

## SECTION 3

## Section Summary

## BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION

## READING CHECK

What is significant about the rise of cities?

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## VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *complex* mean in the underlined sentence? Notice the signal word *more* appears before *complex*. In what way do you think writing changed? Use the signal word to help you learn what *complex* means in the sentence.

## READING SKILL

**Summarize** Explain what caused cultural diffusion.

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The earliest civilizations developed near major rivers. Rivers provided water, transportation, and food. Floodwaters made the soil fertile. In such rich conditions, farmers produced **surpluses**, which allowed them to store food and feed growing populations. As populations grew, villages expanded into cities. Away from these cities, people lived in farming villages or as nomadic herders on grasslands, or **steppes**. Unlike these **traditional economies**, however, in the new cities some people had jobs other than farming.

The rise of cities is the main feature of **civilization**. In addition to this, historians distinguish other basic features of most early civilizations. They include organized governments, complex religions, job specialization, social classes, arts and architecture, public works, and writing.

In these early civilizations, central governments led by chiefs or elders coordinated large-scale projects such as farming or public works, established laws, and organized defense. Most people were **polytheistic**, believing in many gods. Usually, the gods were associated with natural forces such as the sun or rivers. Also, for the first time, individuals began to specialize in certain jobs. Some became **artisans**. In many civilizations, people's jobs determined their social rank. Priests and nobles usually occupied the top level. Wealthy merchants and artisans were next. Most people were peasants and held the lowest social rank. Art and architecture developed, reflecting the beliefs and values of the civilization. Skilled workers built large, ornate palaces and temples decorated with paintings and statues. Many civilizations also developed writing from **pictographs**. As writing grew more complex, only specially trained people called **scribes** could read and write.

Over time, early civilizations changed. Famine, drought, or other disasters sometimes led people to migrate. Migration, as well as trade and warfare, led to **cultural diffusion**. Trade introduced people to new goods or better methods of making them. In warfare, victorious armies forced their ways of life on conquered peoples while they incorporated aspects of the new cultures into their own. Rulers acquired more territory. This brought about the development of **city-states** and, later, the rise of the first **empires**.

## Review Questions

1. Why did early civilizations develop near major rivers?

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2. What roles did central governments have in early civilizations?

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# Summary

## “Beginnings of Civilizations”

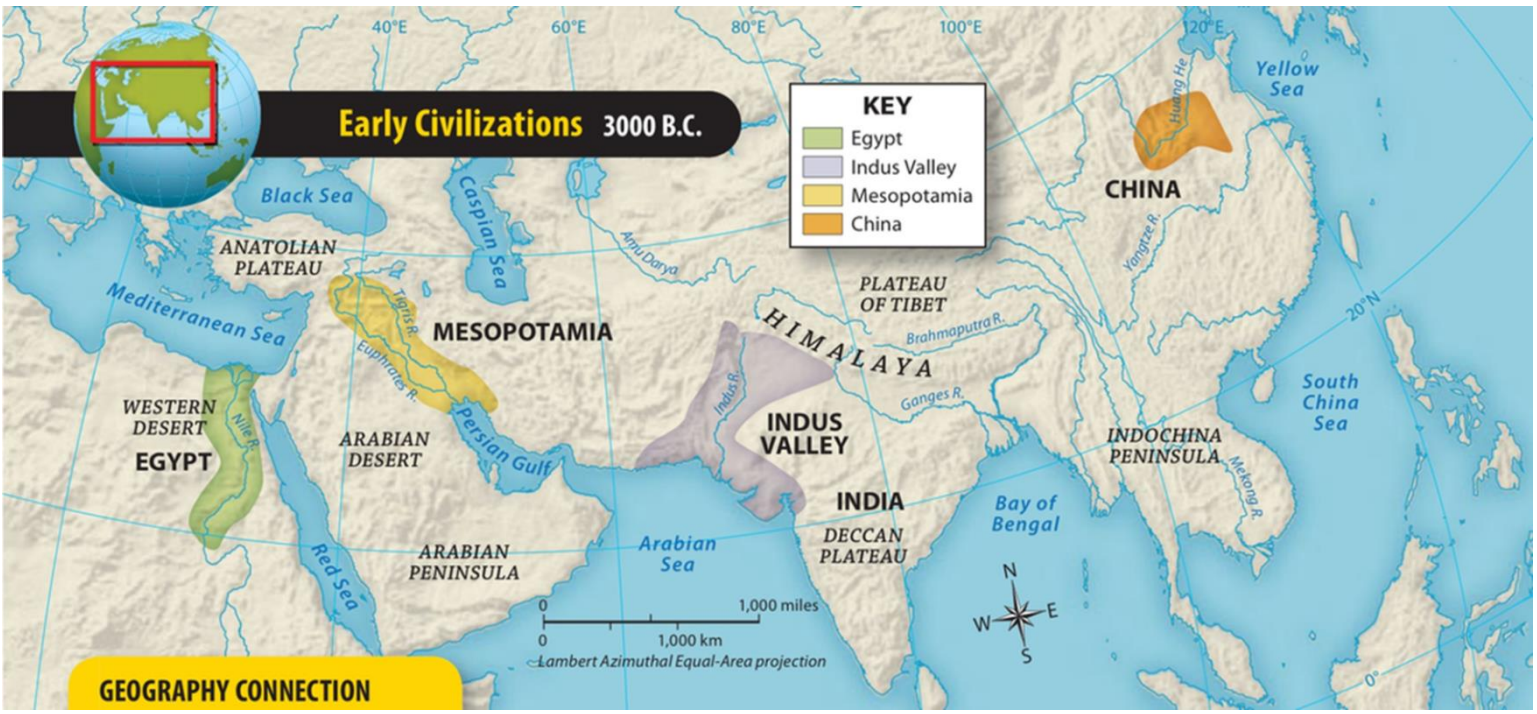
By about 5,000 years ago, the advances made by early farming communities led to the rise of civilizations. Historians define 8 basic features common to most early civilizations: (1) cities, (2) well-organized central governments, (3) complex religions, (4) job specializations, (5) social classes, (6) public works, (7) arts and architecture, and (8) writing. Cities first rose in river valleys where conditions favored farming and a surplus of food could be grown.

# Aim #4: How did the world's first civilizations arise and develop?




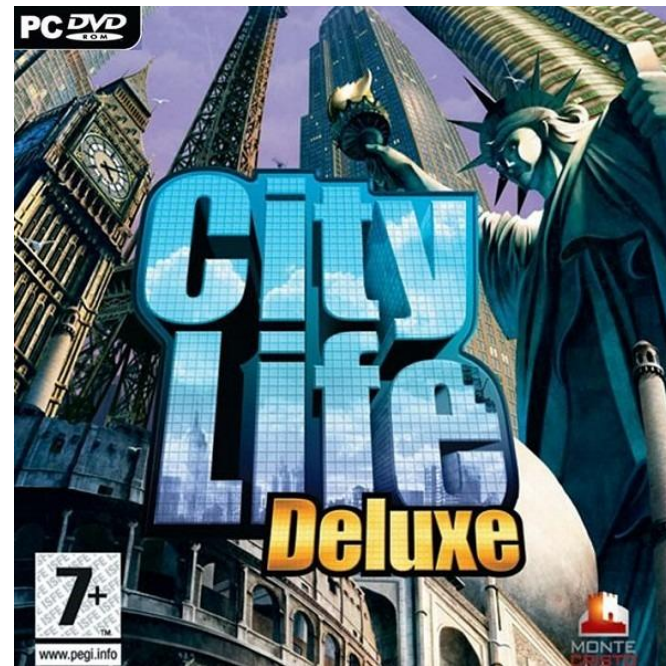
# Civilizations

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## Early River Valley Civilizations

	Mesopotamia	Egypt	Indus Valley	China
<b>Environment</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tigris and Euphrates flooding unpredictable</li> <li>• No natural barriers</li> <li>• Limited natural resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nile flooding predictable</li> <li>• Natural barriers: deserts</li> <li>• Nile an easy transportation link</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indus flooding unpredictable</li> <li>• Natural barriers: mountains, deserts</li> <li>• Monsoon winds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huang He flooding unpredictable</li> <li>• Natural barriers: mountains, deserts</li> <li>• Geographically isolated</li> </ul>
<b>Power and Authority</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent city-states governed by monarchs</li> <li>• City-states united into first empires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharaohs rule kingdom as gods</li> <li>• Pharaohs built pyramids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong centralized government</li> <li>• Planned cities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community and family important</li> <li>• Sharp social divisions</li> <li>• Mandate of Heaven</li> </ul>
<b>Science and Technology</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuneiform</li> <li>• Irrigation</li> <li>• Bronze</li> <li>• Wheel, sail, plow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hieroglyphics</li> <li>• Pyramids</li> <li>• Mathematics, geometry</li> <li>• Medicine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing (not yet deciphered)</li> <li>• Cities built on precise grid</li> <li>• Plumbing and sewage systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing</li> <li>• Silk</li> <li>• Coined money</li> <li>• Cast iron</li> </ul>



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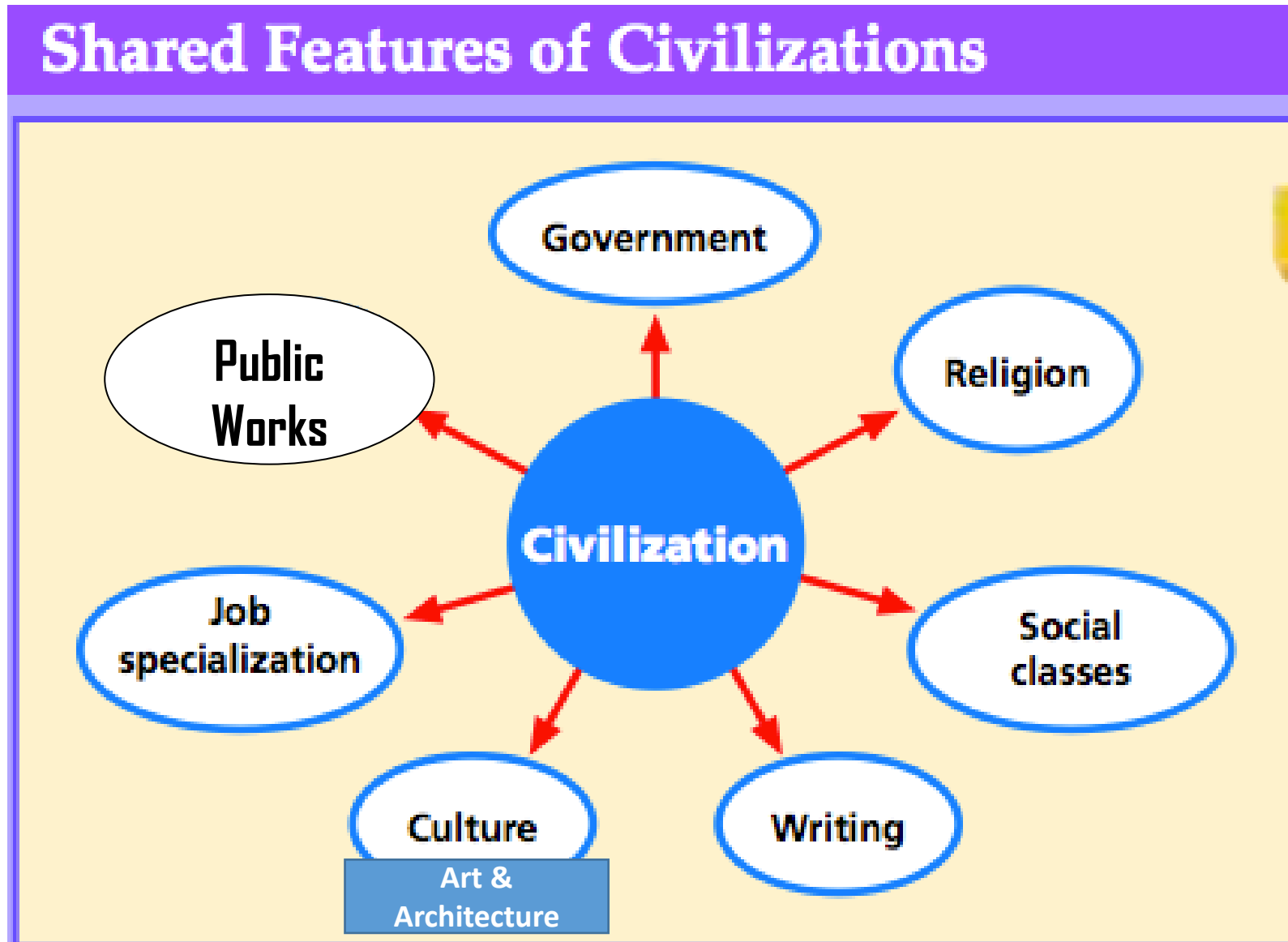




## **Checkpoint**

How did conditions in river valleys favor the rise and development of the first civilizations?

# Basic Features That Define A Civilization



# Features of A Civilization

	Organized Government	Complex Religion	Job Specialization	Social Classes	Art & Architecture	Public Works	Writing
What is it?							
Why does it have to be part of a civilization?							

# Organized Government

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# Complex Religion

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# Job Specialization

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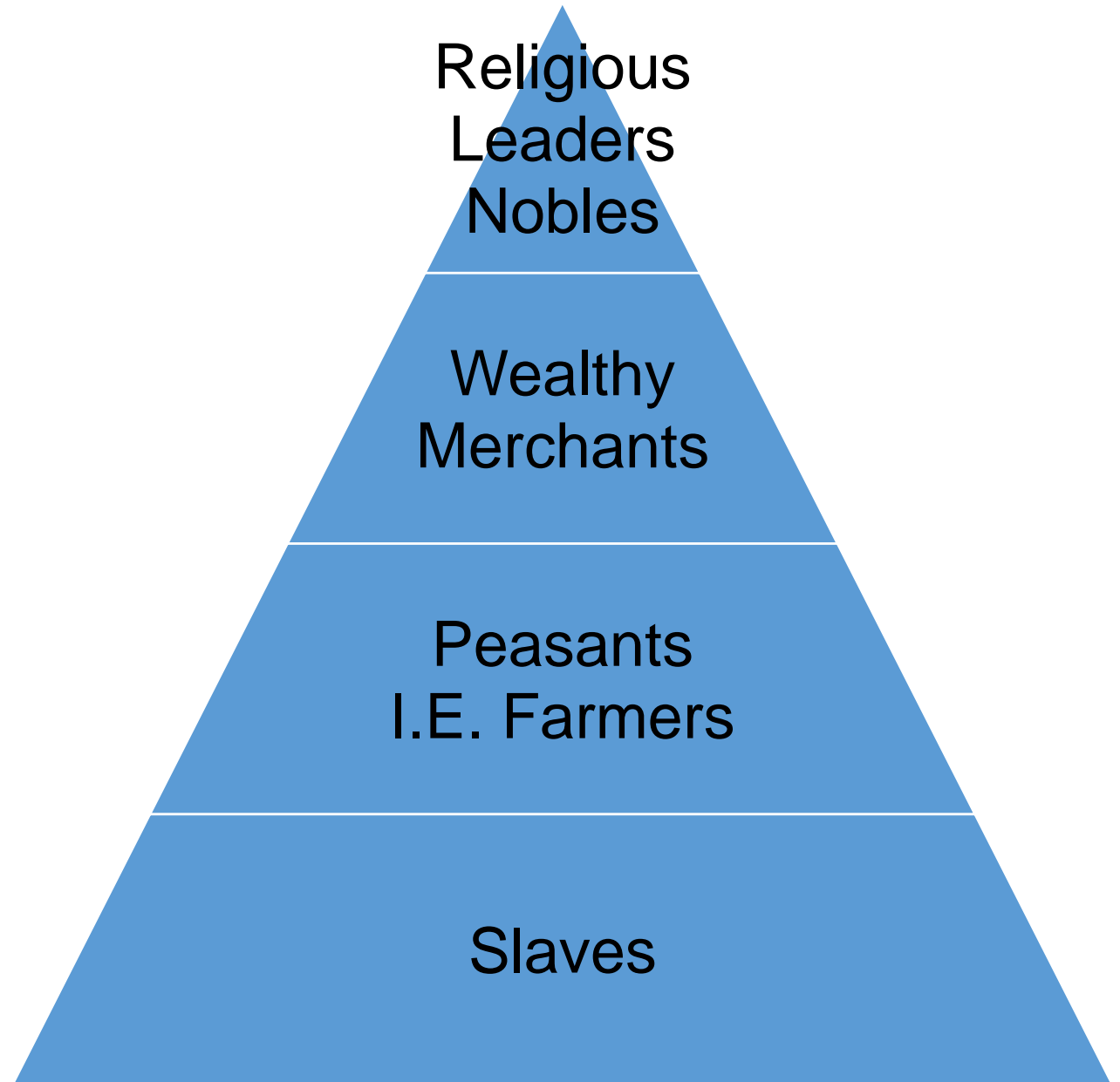


Kevin Jones Associates

Ancient Mesopotamian carving of a carpenter



# Social Classes



# Art & Architecture



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# Public Works

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# Writing

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## Basic Features of Civilizations

Feature	Description
Cities	Population centers that are notably larger and more organized than towns or villages and that support the other features of civilizations
Organized Governments	Structured governments that coordinate large-scale projects such as food production or construction, establish laws, and organize defense systems
Complex Religions	Systems of religious beliefs that usually include rituals and worship of one or more gods and/or goddesses
Job Specialization	System in which there are different types of jobs and each worker focuses on one particular type
Social Classes	Ranked groups within society that are determined by job or economic standing
Arts and Architecture	Various types of artwork and buildings that express the talents, beliefs, and values of people in a society
Public Works	Large-scale and often costly projects that benefit the city and its people
Writing	Structured writing systems used initially by governments or religious leaders to record important information

**Chart Skills** The basic features of civilizations help show how early civilizations differed from smaller farming societies and nomadic lifestyles. *Which features of civilizations do you think most affected the daily lives of average people?*

## Cause and Effect

### Causes

● Neolithic people learn to farm. → Hunters and gatherers settle into farming communities. → Some farmers settle in river valleys, where the soil is very fertile. → New technologies improve farming. → Food surpluses support growing populations. → The first cities are built in fertile valleys.

## Rise of River Valley Civilizations

### Effects

- Complex forms of government develop.
- Arts become more elaborate.
- Job specialization leads to social classes.
- People invent writing.
- Early civilizations conquer neighboring lands.

## Connections to Today

- Archaeologists continue to discover rich stores of information about Neolithic people and early civilizations.
- In the modern day, people continue to live along rivers, in both villages and large cities.

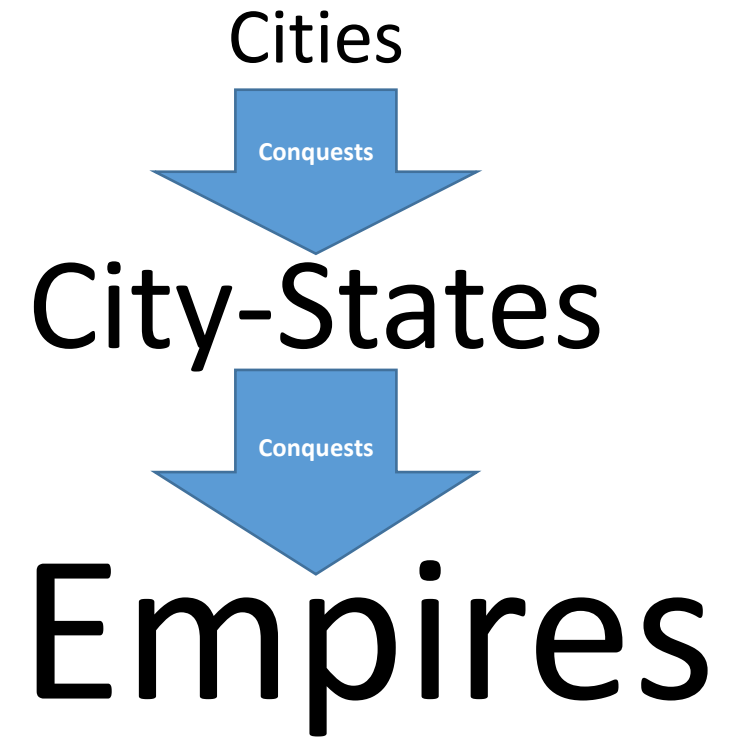
**Analyze Cause and Effect** A series of different factors caused the rise of River Valley Civilizations. *Which cause do you think led most directly to job specialization? Why?*



## Checkpoint

What are the basic features that define civilization?

# Civilizations Change Over Time





## Checkpoint

Due to what factors have civilizations changed over time?

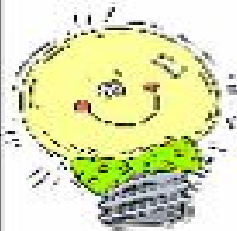
## **The First Cities and Civilizations**

- irrigation leads to food surpluses
- development of division of labor
- rise of the first cities and civilizations
- development of government and religious institutions
- emergence of social classes
- invention of record keeping/writing





I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD  
Please jot down what you  
have gotten from today's  
lesson and what you still  
have questions on.